

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
CLEARCREEK TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
Minutes of Regular Meeting
June 10, 2024

The Clearcreek Township Trustees met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. with the following members present: Mr. Gabbard, Mr. Muterspaw, and Mr. Wade.

Mr. Wade opened the meeting and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Wade noted that the Honorable Judge Gary A. Loxley and the Honorable Judge Robert S. Fischer were present to discuss the Warren County Court's year in review. The Board heard from Judge Loxley and Judge Fischer on the state of the Court and their programs at reducing recidivism among veterans and mental health defendants. The Board thanked the Judges for their presentation and service to the community.

Mr. Wade asked for a motion to suspend the regular meeting to hold a Public Hearing on the 2025 Tax Budget. Mr. Muterspaw so moved with Mr. Gabbard seconding the motion. Upon roll call the vote was as follows: Mr. Muterspaw-yea; Mr. Gabbard-yea; and Mr. Wade-yea.

Mr. Carolus, Fiscal Officer, noted that the Tax Budget is required by ORC. Mr. Carolus asked the Board to refer to the Police budget. Mr. Carolus stated that current appropriations are unsustainable and require action from the Board. Mr. Carolus asked the Board what parameters would be used to bring the budget back into balance. Mr. Wade stated that he knew this day was coming and noted the last levy was passed in 1999 with lots of growth. Mr. Wade acknowledged that the Police department and Chief Terrill had worked diligently to extend the life of the levy. Mr. Gabbard noted that the current series of levies has lasted 25 years. Mr. Gabbard also noted that Police had done more with less and that the department had to have a new building due to the growth in the department and community. Mr. Gabbard stated he would like to see what levy would be needed to reflect continued growth in the community. Mr. Muterspaw asked how long the budget would be sustainable. Mr. Carolus stated that current projections show the Police Fund running out of money at the end of 2026 with insufficient resources to start 2027. Mr. Carolus explained that a levy being passed in 2025 would take effect in 2026 allowing the Police department to maintain current levels of service. Mr. Clark, Township Administrator, noted that he and the Fiscal Officer had had extensive discussions on the budget and noted the timing couldn't have been worse with the projected property tax revaluation that will result in higher tax bills in 2025. Mr. Clark noted that the Township was getting information on what types of levies could be used and millage that would be required to right size the levy to meet the anticipated service levels of the Police Department. Mr. Muterspaw asked that information about where the levy would place the department in terms of other corresponding police jurisdictions. Mr. Gabbard noted the lack of other levies within Clearcreek, like parks and roads, that are typically used by other jurisdictions. Mr. Wade noted that the service rendered by the department is excellent and that the Township doesn't want to go backwards and rebuild the Police department. Mr. Wade tasked Mr. Clark, Chief Terrill, and Mr. Carolus to come up with a plan. Mr. Wade stated that he hoped the Police levy would be less than the 3.75 mill levy that was passed for the Fire Department and that any levy would last long enough to last at least 5 years. Mr. Pacheco, Law Director, noted the time frames for a 2024 levy request. Mr. Gabbard and Mr. Wade discussed the timing of the levy request and stated that further discussion would be needed. Mr. Wade asked if anyone had any further comments or questions. Hearing none, Mr. Wade asked for a motion to end the Public Hearing and immediately

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resume the regular meeting. Mr. Gabbard so moved with Mr. Muterspaw seconding the motion. Upon roll call the vote was as follows: Mr. Gabbard-yea; Mr. Muterspaw-yea; and Mr. Wade-yea.

Mr. Wade asked for a motion to approve the 2025 Tax Budget and move it to the County Budget Commission. Mr. Muterspaw so moved with Mr. Gabbard seconding the motion. Upon roll call the vote was as follows: Mr. Muterspaw-yea; Mr. Gabbard-yea; and Mr. Wade-yea.

Mr. Wade called for Public Comment. No comments were noted.

Mr. Carolus noted that Duke was lowering their standard offering rate by 10%, which is still higher than the rate offered by the Township electric aggregation program. Mr. Carolus noted that Township residents had saved almost \$1.4 million on electric bills from Duke and AES versus the standard offering rates.

Mr. Wade read Resolution 5517 – A Resolution determining that the maintenance of vegetation on the following specific tracts of land constitutes a nuisance, dispensing with the second reading, and declaring an emergency:

- a. 2284 Presley Ct., Parcel ID #08-15-226-016
- b. 2292 Presley Ct., Parcel ID #08-15-226-015.

The reason for the emergency being the need to abate the nuisance as soon as possible. Mr. Palmer, Planning and Zoning Director, gave background information on the parcels. Mr. Wade asked for a motion to approve the Resolution. Mr. Gabbard so moved with Mr. Muterspaw seconding the motion. Upon roll call the vote was as follows: Mr. Gabbard-yea; Mr. Muterspaw-yea; and Mr. Wade-yea.

Mr. Wade noted that another nuisance resolution was being introduced onto the agenda. Mr. Palmer gave background information on 3555 Mary Ann Drive and the junk vehicles located on that property. The Board, Mr. Pacheco, and Mr. Palmer discussed various options in mitigating the nuisance and decided to proceed with Resolution 5518 and look further into other options to reduce future nuisance incidents. Mr. Wade read Resolution 5518 – A Resolution determining that the maintenance of a specific tract of land constitutes a nuisance and ordering the removal of junk vehicles after sufficient notice, dispensing with the second reading, and declaring an emergency. The reason for the emergency being the need to abate the nuisance as soon as possible. Mr. Wade asked for a motion to approve the Resolution. Mr. Muterspaw so moved with Mr. Gabbard seconding the motion. Upon roll call the vote was as follows: Mr. Muterspaw-yea; Mr. Gabbard-yea; and Mr. Wade-yea.

Chief Terrill asked the Board to accept a generous donation of \$500 from ‘Conservatives for Michelle Teska’ to benefit Safety Town 2024. Mr. Wade asked for a motion to accept the donation. Mr. Gabbard so moved with Mr. Muterspaw seconding the motion. Upon roll call the vote was as follows: Mr. Gabbard-yea; Mr. Muterspaw-yea; and Mr. Wade-yea.

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Mr. Wade asked about progress on the salt barn construction. Mr. Jones, Road Superintendent, updated the Board on progress. Mr. Gabbard expressed his gratitude that the project could be done partially in-house.

Mr. Clark updated the Board on progress for the pickleball construction project at Patricia Allyn Park and expressed his gratitude to Mr. Jones for keeping the project moving along.



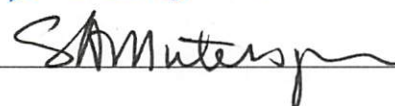
Mr. Muterspaw asked about the newly hired Human Resources Manager. Mr. Clark stated that Randi Michael had started the new position on June 3rd and that Ms. Tischler had been in the office last week to help with the transition and to cover for the Administrative Clerk while she was on vacation.

Mr. Wade asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Muterspaw so moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented to the Board:

- 1 Approval of Regular Minutes – May 28, 2024.
- 2 Current Bills and Financial Report.
- 3 Set a public hearing for Monday, July 8, 2024, to consider the zone change request of J.M. Williams Realty, LLC for 2570 State Route 122, Parcel ID #08-15-326-006 from Residence Zone “R-1” to Neighborhood Business Zone “B-1”.
- 4 Accept the Road, Planning and Zoning, Police and Fire monthly reports for May 2024.

Mr. Gabbard seconded the motion and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Mr. Muterspaw-yea; Mr. Gabbard-yea; and Mr. Wade-yea.

With no further business, Mr. Wade asked for a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:25 p.m. Mr. Gabbard so moved with Mr. Muterspaw seconding the motion. Upon roll call the vote was as follows: Mr. Gabbard-yea; Mr. Muterspaw-yea; and Mr. Wade-yea.

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